

United States Department of State
The Chief of Protocol
Washington, D.C. 20520

Executive Registry

88-0373X

January 27, 1988

The Honorable
William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I am writing to you in further regard to recent Congressional interest in the subject of diplomatic immunity.

Last summer I forwarded a copy of my testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on S. 1437, a bill which would have eliminated immunity in certain cases. Although that legislation was not enacted, Section 137 of the State Department Authorization Act requires the study and submission of a report by the Secretary of State concerning the status of individuals with diplomatic immunity in the United States.

For your further information, enclosed is a copy of the Congressional Record which sets forth this proposal in detail.

Sincerely,


Selwa Roosevelt

Enclosure:
As stated.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

December

14, 1987

SEC. 117. STUDY AND REPORT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall undertake a study of the minimum liability insurance coverage required for members of foreign missions and their families and the feasibility of requiring an increase in such minimum coverage. In conducting such study, the Secretary shall consult with members of the insurance industry, officials of State insurance regulatory bodies, and other experts, as appropriate. The study shall consider the following:

(1) The adequacy of the currently required insurance minimums, including the experiences of injured parties.

(2) The feasibility and projected cost of increasing the current minimum coverages to \$1,000,000 or some lesser amount in the commercial insurance market, including consideration of individual umbrella policies to provide additional coverage above the current minimum.

(3) The feasibility and cost of requiring additional coverage up to \$1,000,000 through a single group insurance arrangement, administered by the Department, providing umbrella coverage for the entire class of foreign officials who are immune from the jurisdiction of the United States.

(4) The consequences to United States missions abroad, including their costs of operation, that might reasonably be anticipated as a result of requiring an increase in the insurance costs of foreign missions in the United States.

(5) Any other issues and recommendations the Secretary may consider appropriate.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall compile a report to the Congress concerning the problem arising from diplomatic immunity from criminal prosecution and from civil suit. The report shall set forth the background of the various issues arising from the problem, the extent of the problem, an analysis of proposed and other potential measures to address the problem (including an analysis of the costs associated with and difficulties of implementing the various proposals), consider the potential and likely impact upon United States diplomatic personnel of actions in other nations that are comparable to such proposals, and make recommendations for addressing the problem with respect to the following:

(1) The collection of debts owed by foreign missions and members of such missions and their families to individuals and entities in the United States.

(2) A detailed catalog of incidents of serious criminal offenses by persons entitled to immunity under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and other treaties to assist in developing an understanding of the extent of the problem.

(3) The feasibility of having the Department of State develop and periodically submit to the Congress a report concerning—

(A) serious criminal offenses committed in the United States by individuals entitled to immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the United States; and

(B) delinquency in the payment of debts owed by foreign missions and members of such missions and their families to individuals and entities in the United States.

(4) Methods for improving the education of law enforcement officials on the extent of immunity provided to members of foreign missions and their families under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and other treaties.

(5) Proposals to assure that law enforcement officials fully investigate, charge, and institute and maintain prosecution of members of foreign missions and their families to the extent consistent with the obligations of the United States under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and other treaties.

(6) The extent to which existing practices regarding the circumstances under which diplomatic visas under section 101(a)(15)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act are issued and revoked are adequate to ensure the integrity of the diplomatic visa category.

(7) The extent to which current registration and documentation requirements fully and accurately identify individuals entitled to diplomatic immunity.

(8) The extent to which the Department of State is able to identify diplomats allegedly involved in serious crimes in the United States so as to initiate their removal from the United States and the extent to which existing law may be inadequate to prevent the subsequent readmission of such individuals under nonimmigrant and immigrant categories unrelated to section 101(a)(15)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(9) A comparison of the procedures for the issuance of visas to diplomats from foreign nations to the United States and international organizations with the procedures accorded to United States diplomats to such nations and to international organizations in such nations, and recommendations to achieve reciprocity in such procedures.

(10)(A) A review of the definition of the term "family" under the Diplomatic Relations Act.

(B) An evaluation of the effect of amendments to the term "family" on the number of persons entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United States.

(C) An evaluation of the potential effect of various amendments to the term "family" under the Diplomatic Relations Act on the number of serious criminal offenses committed in the United States by members of foreign missions and their families entitled to immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the United States.

(11) An examination of all possible measures to prevent the use of diplomatic pouches for the illicit transportation of narcotics, explosives, or weapons.

(12) An examination of the considerations in establishing a fund for compensating the victims of crimes committed by persons entitled to immunity from criminal prosecution under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and other treaties, including the feasibility of establishing an insurance fund financed by foreign missions.

(c) **CONGRESS.**—Not more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the findings and recommendations of the study under subsection (a) and the report under subsection (b) shall be submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.